Conspicuous, Isn't It?

Purchasing conspicuous tape.

Adhesive is what makes a thin, rolled material tape, isn't it?

Never, under any circumstances, use duct tape on a duct. That is what the aluminum tape is for, and it works fantastically. The glue used on what is generally agreed to be duct tape might be famously sticky, but it possesses a very low melting point. As soon as the season changes and the air coursing through your vents transitions from conditioned to heated it will slide off, exposing the previously repaired leak. Duct tape is useful enough to be ubiquitous - I've even seen wedding dresses and other apparel fashioned from it - but insidiously ironic in its titling.

When I bought conspicuous tape off eBay, I didn't need it as a necessity. I just wanted some because I previously didn't know it existed and being cool, I like cool shit. That makes sense, right? Cool people don't, by definition, surround themselves with lamity. Oh, they might be surrounded by the impossibly lame, that is also part of the definition. But they don't intentionally acquire lame shit, unless the plan is to expose abject for what it is - fucking lame.

I once purchased an 18" subwoofer made by a company I won't mention by trademarked logo because it was suspiciously cheap and claimed that it went down to 25 hertz. I called bullshit immediately and had the not much cash required for entrance to this contest. For the record, not even fucking close, however, I only installed it in a well-built and properly sized (etc) closed enclosure. A full test of its true capabilities would involve testing in various other styles of sub boxes. While I still don't believe for a second that it could've pushed 25hz, a bandpass or ported or other type of speaker box assembly most certainly would have brought the number down significantly lower, maybe even low enough to actually recommend and applaud this manufacturer's very reasonably priced product. All of the many parameters that speaker enthusiasts demand were included both in a printed datasheet and in the online advertising space, which is something that many other companies deliberately avoid doing in the hopes of acquiring ill-begotten funds.

I can inform the interested that the pair of Pyramid 1" marine bullet titanium tweeters with 20 ounces of magnet behind each that I scored off of Amazon

back before I completely and permanently boycotted their services and products for $18 total were not lying in their advertising claims. They professed to have a usable range extending to 25,000khz. Bats project 30,000khz sounds in order to eat their body weight in flying insects nightly. As one might suspect, speaker manufacturers are almost never concerned with designing sound output devices that humans who buy stuff can't hear. Twenty ounces of magnet is about the size of a child's fist. They were efficient with power usage to sound output level as well - 96db. The somewhat standard way to measure a speaker's sensitivity is to give it one watt of power and a sine wave at a designated frequency while recording with a microphone one meter away. Also somewhat standard in the industry is not specifying other variables in this somewhat standard equation like type, brand, model number of the microphone, the impedance of the unspecified length of cable connecting it to an unspecified external sound card, temperature and humidity of the atmosphere or the elemental composition thereof. We assume these measurements to have been recorded in an anechoic chamber, of which there are a stunningly small amount of on the planet Earth. Most contractors would rather build a hydroelectric dam or a treehouse than an anechoic chamber, which would require them to look that up somewhere and find out what one was. Oh, they can build it - they're professionals who build stuff - but they're going to bitch about it while explaining how prohibitively expensive such a venture would be to the customer, which is not what professional anythings do if they want the contract.

Speaking of somewhat standard audio industry tests and procedures, how one measures a watt and output of an amplifier circuit is also, while not proprietary, up to the manufacturer. There are expensive automotive decks with flashy drop-down screens and universally recognized brand logos on them for sale at your local purveyor of such goods that proudly proclaim their system spits out sound at 10% Total Harmonic Distortion (usually written as THD). They will invariably have the maximum output wattage written in large brightly colored figures on the packaging and display model as well. These numbers will be exact and even, such as 300 or 240 and are meant to describe the rarest of musical events when a huge dynamic shift occurs in a recording during playback involving a deep bass event. The lower the sound a speaker is asked to produce, the more air physically must be moved. This requires exponentially more power than reproduction of the highest sounds. The bold manufacturer's claims are referring to this Peak output - what their product can do for a fraction of a second, usually with

added unwanted distortion. The smaller set of lower numbers, if advertised at all, is the meaningful average amount of power generated by the amp, denoted as RMS (Root Mean Square).

The best amplifier I ever owned, which I sadly had to give away when I sold my property of seventeen years at a dramatic loss to wind up with all of my possessions in one backpack and one soft-sided guitar bag, was an '83 or '84 Sansui class A stereo model. It was not a receiver, meaning all sound information had to be fed to it externally, including FM or AM signals. Class A amplifier designs have the lowest added harmonic distortion, but are only employed by audiophiles whose drive for accurate sonic reproduction capabilities are a defining characteristic of their lives. They are by far the most inefficient of choices in the category. Eighty percent or more of the electricity used gets immediately converted to heat. After an energy audit of my home I determined my stereo system used more kilowatt-hours than my traditional fifty gallon tank water heater annually, or my very recent model Samsung clothes dryer, which I pretty much only used to launder blankets and other bedding. In forty years of use it was still in perfect working order except for one tiny blue bulb that was out on the left side of a superficial display. The four identical models I have found for sale online over the years were also identical in this regard - performed beautifully, same tiny blue bulb out. In comparison to the example previous, it was rated as putting out 80 watts per side at 0.02% Total Harmonic Distortion. The speakers I was pushing were full-size floor standing twenty-year-old Acoustic Research models rated at 89db efficiency. I never turned the volume up past five because it would have been too loud inside my meticulously built and treated studio spaces. This is coming from someone who has spent more of their income percentage wise on finding the biggest PA systems available anywhere and standing in front of them than rent or food or vehicles or drugs. It is all about how one measures that watt. Sony. Kenwood. Pioneer. Alpine. JVC. Blaupunkt. Etc.

Conspicuous tape demands attention through more than its title. It is glossy and printed with a highly reflective hexagonal pattern, meant to be adhered to locations such as stair risers for added safety in low-light conditions. Although all of my material possessions fit in one backpack and one soft-sided guitar bag, I still have some in thin strips increasing the visibility of my AKAI FIRE MIDI controller. Over a hundred LED backlit, velocity sensitive buttons comprise much of its surface area. When in use, not all are constantly lit, depending on which function the chosen template is performing. The housing is a durable flat black plastic and I generally choose

to work in relative darkness, since any light source has a tendency to reflect distractingly off of the screens. The bright white color I chose is beyond conspicuous - it is fucking obnoxious, especially when viewed from a distance closer than an arm's length. One of the highest value-to-cost ratios of any product I've ever purchased. Designed for use in or out of doors and backed with a glue rivaling any advertised as being super or crazy. The company I purchased it from on eBay, located somewhere here in the United States, cut an extra 18" off the roll for me as a bonus and included a handwritten note on the printed invoice. My aging brain recalls it being offered in yellow, green, red, and blue as well, possibly more choices. If used in locations where it is exposed to direct sunlight much of the time, the clear plastic top layer will probably sooner or later decompose from the ultraviolet spectrum breaking it down at a molecular level, but the reflective layer underneath will assuredly continue to perform its intended duty of stabbing eyeballs for decades or lifetimes. If you select the white version, you have been forewarned. Wrapping this around a bicycle frame will add the amusement of watching cars in either direction of travel hilariously jerk as their pilots first stare at whatever that shiny ---ow! What the fuck!??! Can you see me now? Really, it works so well users may begin to experience regret of acquiring such bright flashlights.

My consumer reports have historically been angry rants describing poor manufacturing ethics and standards. For once, I wanted to shine a piercing, unavoidable and briefly painful illuminating victory showcase to something humankind has produced that does more than what it claims while remaining so demure and modest that hardly anyone knows it exists, or at least what it is called if they desired some of their own. Many malicious hopes reside in my heart that a community of highly creative Deviants can utilize this information for their own myriad fiendish purposes.